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B&V WASTE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CORP.

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USEPA  
ARCS V  
MARION/BRAGG LANDFILL

November 28, 1989

Mr. Art Gasior, 5PA-14  
Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Art:

Enclosed is a draft of the revised Community Relations Plan for the Marion/Bragg Landfill. I have also sent copies to the individuals noted on this letter.

Please call Melissa Murphy with your comments. She will then incorporate them and submit a final revised CRP for your approval. Do not hesitate to call either myself or Melissa with any questions.

Sincerely,

B&V WASTE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CORP.

Marti L. Shanks  
Community Relations Manager

ep

Enclosure

cc: B. Schorle, USEPA, w/enclosure  
T. Lesser, USEPA, w/enclosure  
B. Manzke, USEPA, w/enclosure  
C. Norman, USEPA, w/enclosure  
B. Bruce, BVWST, w/o enclosure

## REVISED COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

### MARION/BRAGG LANDFILL

### MARION, INDIANA

#### INTRODUCTION

The Superfund program was created by the Congress in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 and amended in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. This act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and respond to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger both the public health and welfare and the environment. The EPA, which administers Superfund in cooperation with the individual states, created the Superfund community relations program to generate a positive and ongoing dialogue between the communities surrounding Superfund sites and the government agencies responsible for investigating and responding to the contamination problems at these sites. All community relations activities are designed to keep the public informed of site-related developments and to allow residents and local officials opportunities to review and comment on EPA and state plans concerning the site.

EPA completed a community relations plan for the Marion/Bragg Landfill Superfund site (the site) in February, 1986. Since that time, EPA, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), carried out a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the site and proposed corrective action for the site contamination. This proposed action was presented to the public in the summer of 1987 and comments on the proposal were requested. That corrective action was made official in the Record of Decision (ROD) signed on September 30, 1987, by EPA Region V Administrator Valdus Adamkus. Currently, EPA, IDEM, and nine of the parties potentially responsible (PRPs) for contamination at the site are working toward the completion of a legal agreement known as a Consent Decree. The parties signing the Consent Decree have agreed to implement the corrective action outlined in the ROD. Corrective action work at the site began in October, 1989. All information concerning the site is available in greater detail in the information repository established by EPA

at the Marion Public Library. This repository also contains copies of the February, 1986 community relations plan, federal laws applicable to the Marion/Bragg site, and other site-related documents.

This revised community relations plan updates the February, 1986 plan and describes community relations activities EPA will conduct throughout the implementation of the corrective action. It contains the following sections:

- \* a brief description of the Marion/Bragg site and its history;
- \* a summary of past and present site concerns of Marion/Bragg community residents, local organizations, and officials;
- \* objectives and activities for the community relations program during the implementation of corrective action at the site.

The appendices to this revised community relations plan contain a graphic schedule of technical milestones and community relations activities, a contact list of interested officials and organizations, and a list of locations for public meetings and site repositories.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This section of the plan briefly describes the site and summarizes key historical events related to the site. Documents in the site repository may be consulted for additional information.

### **Site Description**

The Marion/Bragg Landfill Superfund site occupies seventy-two acres of land east of the City of Marion in Grant County, Indiana. (See Exhibit 1 for location map.) The site is bordered on the west by a cemetery, on the south by Eastside Cove, and on the north and east by the Mississinewa River. Eastside Cove is a campground, and the Mississinewa River is used for recreational fishing and water sports. One large pond is located on the site, and another pond is located on the Eastside Cove property, immediately south of the site. (See Exhibit 2 for site map.) The closest residents live approximately one-half mile from the site.

### **Site History**

Delmar Bragg began landfilling operations at the site in 1957, when Grant County issued him a sanitary landfill permit. Although ownership of the site changed three times, Mr. Bragg was responsible for operating the landfill until it was closed by the State of Indiana in 1975. During the years of operation, Mr. Bragg accepted municipal wastes from the city of Marion and wastes from nearby industries. These industrial wastes included acetone, plasticizers, lacquer thinners, enamels, and heavy metals such as cadmium and lead.

In 1971, the Indiana State Board of Health (ISBH) began conducting periodic inspections of the site. During these inspections, ISBH noted a number of problems. Following its first site inspection, ISBH recommended that Mr. Bragg find another sanitary landfill site and close the Marion/Bragg Landfill as soon as possible. Despite ISBH's recommendations, Mr. Bragg continued to accept wastes until 1975. In May of that year, ISBH and the Indiana Stream Pollution Control Board informed Mr. Bragg that landfill operations must end by July 1. Mr. Bragg officially stopped accepting wastes in October.

In 1982, EPA's Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted an initial site survey to collect the information needed in order to determine the site's hazard ranking. Results from this survey indicated that some contaminants were present and that further investigation was needed to assess the potential impact on human health and the environment. Consequently, EPA placed the Marion/Bragg Landfill on the National Priorities List (NPL), the federal list of hazardous waste sites eligible for Superfund monies.

In March, 1985, EPA began a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site. This is a long-term investigation and study done to collect and analyze the data necessary to define the specific problems at a Superfund site and to evaluate alternative solutions to those problems. The RI/FS at Marion/Bragg was completed in July, 1987, and included ground water, surface water, and soil sampling and testing.

The RI found that the ground water beneath the site was primarily contaminated with ammonia and the inorganic compound arsenic.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, soil investigations at the site found significant concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).<sup>2</sup> The public health evaluation included in the RI determined that the contamination on the site posed a public health risk by means of several exposure pathways: direct contact with surface soils; direct contact with material eroding out of the landfill; consumption of fish from the on-site pond; swimming in the on-site pond; and drinking the ground water from the site.

The FS report evaluated several alternative corrective actions for addressing the contamination at the site. The alternative recommended by EPA consisted of the following major elements:

- \*     Regrading and capping the landfill with two feet of clay and six inches of top soil to reduce infiltration of contaminants into the ground water;

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<sup>1</sup> An inorganic element used extensively in insecticides and weed killers because of its highly toxic character. Arsenic is also used in the manufacture of glass, metal alloys, and wood preservatives.

<sup>2</sup> A diverse class of organic compounds. One source of PAHs is the incomplete combustion of carbon and hydrogen containing materials such as fossil fuels, cigarettes, and wood. Some PAHs are known to cause cancer.

- \* Installing a flood protection levee around the areas of the landfill which are within the 100 year floodplain of the Mississinewa River. This is done in order to prevent the landfill from being inundated by high river stage flood waters, as well as to comply with floodplain protection requirements;
- \* Installing a security fence to prevent site use and any potential exposure problems associated with use of the on-site pond;
- \* Restricting the use of shallow wells for human water consumption in order to prevent exposure to the shallow aquifer;
- \* Conducting additional studies in order to determine the final ground water remedy, including:
  - collecting fish samples from the on-site and off-site ponds, as well as the Mississinewa River;
  - conducting additional studies on the nature of groundwater releases to the river;
  - monitoring the ground water to determine the effectiveness of the actions described above.

EPA finalized its choice of the corrective action described above in a ROD signed by Region V Administrator Valduis Adamkus on September 30, 1987. EPA's decision was based not only on the results of the RI/FS, but also on public input received throughout the RI/FS process and on public comments received during the formal comment period held in the summer of 1987.

Mobilization of corrective action began in October, 1989. The corrective action is being implemented by nine of the PRPs, and has been agreed to by EPA, IDEM, and the PRPs in a formal document known as a Consent Decree. The Consent Decree is now in the final review stage by the various agencies involved. When the review has been completed, the decree will be lodged with the court and made accessible to the public for review and formal comment.

#### HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Until 1987, there was a fairly low level of community and resident concern about contamination from the site. Press coverage from 1957, when the landfill was first established, to 1987 was sporadic. According to local officials, neither the city nor the county received a substantial amount of resident complaints, even when the landfill was in operation. Further, Grant County officials stated that until 1987 very few residents were even aware that the landfill was a Superfund site, although the local newspaper, the Marion Chronicle-Tribune, reported the site's placement on the NPL in December, 1982.

Shortly after the close of the public comment period on the proposed corrective action plan in the summer of 1987, a group of concerned citizens formed Healthy Environment for All Life (HEAL), Inc. HEAL is a community watch group interested in environmental issues. They have expressed their dissatisfaction with the corrective action chosen by EPA for the site. The EPA has held numerous availability sessions and directly responded to the issues raised by HEAL, but members of the organization continue to carry out an extensive letter-writing campaign and express their continued dissatisfaction with the corrective action plan.

## KEY ISSUES AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

EPA completed its community relations plan for the Marion/Bragg site in February, 1986. Since that time, the key issues of concern have changed very little. The most significant point to note is that, for the most part, community and resident concern has been fairly low. With the implementation of the corrective action (and the subsequent appearance of technicians and equipment), interest may increase. The main issues to which EPA should be sensitive are:

- \* **Threat of Adverse Publicity for the City of Marion.** Because the city is a PRP, Marion officials are concerned that the city will be the subject of adverse publicity as the corrective action is implemented. In particular, Marion officials have been concerned with the accuracy of information releases by EPA regarding the city's involvement with the site. Therefore, Marion officials would like all information releases to state clearly that (1) the landfill lies within county rather than city jurisdiction, (2) the landfill was permitted by the county, and (3) the city of Marion was given permission by the county to use the landfill.
- \* **Adverse Effects on Local Business.** The owners of the local businesses have voiced concerns about adverse economic effects as the corrective action is implemented. Thus, they have requested that EPA construct a fence separating the landfill from their property and refrain from posting contamination signs on or near their property. (The chain-link fence isolating the site is the first element of corrective action to be implemented).
- \* **Surface Water Contamination.** The Mississinewa River and the ponds located on and near the site have been continually used for recreational fishing and water sports. Therefore, the water contamination noted in the RI clearly has the potential to become a prominent resident concern as the corrective action is implemented. Restricted site access achieved by the fence and site security will eliminate concerns regarding the site surface waters.

- \* **Concerns About Corrective Action.** Some residents are concerned that the corrective action being implemented is not adequate given the types of contamination present. In particular, they feel that capping the site will not prevent the migration of contaminants from the bottom of the landfill into the groundwater, ponds, and river, and would like to see the contaminants completely excavated from the site and removed to a different location. Additionally, many residents are afraid that contaminated dust will be released into the air during the implementation of the corrective action.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

Because community involvement has remained somewhat limited, the objectives of the community relations program continue to address primarily potential, rather than current, concerns. These potential concerns can best be addressed by an effective community education program designed to meet the needs of the various groups in the community.

Like the community concerns, the specific objectives of the community relations program have also not changed a great deal. They include the following:

1. Educate area residents and local officials about the procedures, policies, and requirements of the Superfund program. Providing information about the Superfund program to residents and local officials will help all concerned to understand the various stages of response activities for the site. This has been effectively done thus far through the use of fact sheets and advertised availability sessions. It is recommended that EPA continue these activities throughout the remaining stages of the corrective action implementation.

2. Establish and maintain an information repository to ensure that accurate and timely information on the site is available for public review. EPA has established an information repository at the Marion Library. The work plan, community relations plan, fact sheets, technical summaries, RI/FS reports, responsiveness summary and other site-related documents have been placed there for public review. This information repository should be maintained and updated as needed through the completion of the site work.

3. Enlist the support and participation of local officials in coordinating community relations activities. Thus far, various local officials have participated actively in the implementation of the community relations program. These include the Grant County Commissioners, the Grant County Planning Director, Grant County Health Department officials, the ISBH Community Relations Coordinator, and various officials in the Marion city government. To maintain the support and participation of these officials, EPA has kept them regularly

and fully informed of all site activities and developments, as well as of the schedule and objectives of the community relations program. This has been accomplished most efficiently through telephone calls and meetings. It is recommended that EPA continue to inform all officials of both technical and community relations activities on a consistent basis. This is especially important during the implementation of the corrective action, as the appearance of technicians and heavy equipment is likely to raise a variety of questions.

5. **Ensure that area residents are kept informed of all site activities.** The schedule, purpose, and outcome of technical activities at the site should be explained to residents in clear and non-technical language. This has been accomplished thus far through the use of fact sheets and availability sessions. Because the implementation of the corrective action is likely to be of concern to the community, it is recommended that EPA continue to distribute fact sheets with the beginning of each new technical work phase. Additionally, it is recommended that EPA hold monthly availability sessions near the site in order to answer any questions residents may have. These availability sessions should be held at the same time and place every month, should be accompanied by a community update letter, and should be adequately advertised.

6. **Provide information to the local press about all site activities in a manner that is sensitive to Marion officials' concerns about maintaining the area's positive residential and commercial image.** As mentioned earlier, Marion officials have expressed fears that EPA's site activities could create negative publicity for the city. EPA should therefore continue to keep Marion officials informed regarding site activities.

7. **Distribute a fact sheet and hold an availability session after the Consent Decree is lodged with the court.** A fact sheet should be distributed and an availability session should be held after the Consent Decree is lodged with the court to explain the contents of the Consent Decree. A suggested location for the availability session is the council chambers in the Grant County Complex building in Marion.

8. Provide opportunities for public comment on the Consent Decree. After the Consent Decree is lodged with the Court, a 30 day public comment period must be held. EPA should issue a release to the local newspapers announcing the dates for the public comment period and explaining the procedures for commenting on the Consent Decree. The comments will be evaluated to ensure that the Consent Decree is appropriate and consistent with the law.

### TIMING OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The specific community relations activities recommended in this revised community relations plan are listed below as they correspond to technical milestones. A graphic schedule is provided in Appendix A.

#### **Technical Milestones**

#### **Community Relations Activities**

Prior to lodging of the Consent Decree with the court

Update and maintain information repository.

Maintain contacts with local officials.

Lodging of Consent Decree with the Court

Distribute fact sheet to residents.

Place newspaper ad announcing the signing of the Consent Decree and publicizing the availability session.

Hold availability session to explain the contents of the Consent Decree and the formal public comment period.

Formal Public Comment Period

Issue press release to the local newspapers announcing the dates of the formal public comment period and explaining the procedures for making formal comments.

Implementation of Corrective Action

Place Responsiveness Summary in the information repository.

Begin monthly availability sessions and update letters.

Completion of Corrective Action

Distribute fact sheet to residents. Issue press release to local news media.

APPENDIX A  
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Schedule and Staffing Plan: Community relations activities at the Marion/Bragg site will be conducted by U.S. EPA Region V Community Relations Coordinator, and the U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager. Technical and community relations contractor assistance will be provided as requested by U.S. EPA.

<u>Community Relations Activity</u>	<u>Review of Consent Decree</u>	<u>Lodging of Consent Decree</u>	<u>Formal Public Comment Period</u>	<u>Implementation of Corrective Action</u>	<u>Completion of Corrective Action</u>
1) Information Repository	X -----		update as needed -----		X
2) Maintain Information Contacts	X -----				X
3) Fact Sheets/Update Letters		X		X -----	X
4) Availability Sessions		X		X -----	X
5) News Releases		X	X		X
6) Maintain Mailing List			X	X -----	X

**APPENDIX B**  
**LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES**

**A. Federal Elected Officials**

Senator Richard Lugar

Washington, D.C. Office  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510 (202)-224-4814

District Office  
5530 Sohl Avenue  
Hammond, IN 46320 (219)-937-5380

Senator Dan Coats

Washington, D.C. Office  
411 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510 (202)-224-5723

District Office  
5530 Sohl Avenue  
Hammond, IN 46320 (219)-937-5380

Representative Jim Jontz

Washington, D.C. Office  
1039 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515 (202)-225-5037

District Office  
104 W. Walnut  
Kokomo, IN 46901 (317)-459-4375

**B. State Elected Officials**

Senator Anthony Maidenburg

P.O. Box 1205  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-662-9854

Representative Tracy Boatwright

224 E. Stevenson  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-664-6540

Representative Pete Beck

2614 West 500 North  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-664-6540

**C. Local Officials**

Mayor Robert Mitchell

301 S. Branson Street  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-662-9931

Owen Gilbert, Marion Utility Director

P.O. Box 718  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-664-7124

Patrick Jay Glithero, Executive Director  
Grant County Area Planning Commission

Grant County Complex  
401 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46953

(317)-668-8871

Grant County Commissioners:

Philip Rybolt, Chairman  
Ray Hickam  
Julian Sectors

Grant County Complex  
401 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46953

(317)-668-8871

#### D. State and Local Agencies

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

105 S. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46225

(317)-232-8494

Catherine G. Lynch, Office of External Affairs  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

105 S. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46225

(317)-232-8494

Jacqueline Strecker, Branch Chief  
Office of Emergency Environmental Response  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

105 S. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46225

(317)-243-5147

Dr. John Kennedy, Health Officer  
Grant County Health Department

Grant County Complex  
401 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46953

(317)-668-8871

#### E. EPA Region V Officials

Bernie Schorle, Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

230 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

(312)-886-4746

Arthur Gasior, Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

230 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

(312)-886-6128

## F. Media

### Newspapers

#### Marion Chronicle-Tribune (daily)

610 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46953 (317)-664-5111

#### Fort Wayne News Sentinel (daily)

P.O. Box 102  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-0102 (219)-461-8222

#### Fort Wayne Journal Gazette (daily)

P.O. Box 88  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-0088 (219)-461-8222

### Radio

#### WBAT

P.O. Box 839  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-664-6239

#### WGOM

P.O. Box 1538  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-664-9466

#### WMRI

P.O. Box 1538  
Marion, IN 46952 (317)-664-7396

### Television

#### Marion Cable (Channel 7)

2923 S. Western Avenue  
Marion, IN 46953 (317)-662-0071

#### WANE-TV

2915 W. State  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808 (219)-424-5555

#### WFFT-TV

P.O. Box 2255  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801 (219)-424-5555

#### WPTA-TV

3401 Butler Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801 (219)-422-7474

**G. Other Interested Organizations and Individuals**

Madonna M. French, President  
Marion Chamber of Commerce

215 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46952

(317)-664-5107

Betty Brovont, Member  
Solid Waste Disposal Committee

2320 N. Miller Avenue  
Marion, IN 46952

(317)-384-7524

David Barley, President  
Eastside Development Cove

5704 Lincoln Boulevard  
Marion, IN 46953

(317)-674-4912

Marijean Stephenson, President  
Healthy Environment for All Life (HEAL), Inc.

P.O. Box 1474  
Marion, IN 46952

(317)-674-5670

APPENDIX C  
PUBLIC MEETING AND INFORMATION RESPOSITORY LOCATIONS

A. Information Repository Location

Marion Public Library

600 S. Washington Street  
Marion, IN 46953

(317)-664-7363

B. Public Meeting Location

Grant County Council Chambers

Grant County Complex, First Floor  
401 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46953

(317)-668-8871

Contact: Coleen Comton

Capacity: 100 people